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German Democratic Republic

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METAL-IMPORT DIFFICULTIES OF DAHA

DAHA

about 185 tons of Astra's import requirements were placed. Wanderer's principal import needs are for cold-rolled strip steel, an item which is most difficult to procure.

At the present time delivery schedules of two years are customary; such deliveries are unacceptable to DAHA. Purchasing possibilities in Czechoslovakia are being explored right now. The chances for obtaining deliveries of cold-rolled strip steel from the USSR and the other People's Democracies are very poor. West Germany is the best source for that item. The American steel embargo of 8 February 1950 reduced these imports to a mere trickle. The new provisional agreement of 23 February 1951 did not ease the situation significantly. Even illegal deliveries were almost stopped through American "machinations." As there has not been any agreement between West Germany and the GDR since 2 July 1951, it can be expected that even the few plants which had promised deliveries under the provisional agreement will not deliver now.

Regarding purchases of strip steel, drawn wire, sections, and other products, the absence of a DAHA representation in West Germany becomes a noticeable obstacle. The producers specialize in the requirements of their customers and it would be necessary to visit all plants in order to see what can be done. Some West German plants approached DAHA with proposals for possible deliveries; DAHA is constantly making use of the offers.

the import contracts for 3,000 tons of core wire were not delivered. The GDR steel and rolling mills cannot fit the quantity into their production program. It is no solution to import the electrodes, because that would put the GDR electrodes plants out of work.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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DAHA

Imports of Metal

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